

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the December 15, 2004 NCTC Meeting

DATE: December 1, 2004

1. CRESTVIEW INTERSECTION/INTERCHANGE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

During October and November Fehr and Peers Associates completed much of the traffic analysis for the Crestview Intersection/Interchange project. The Project Development Team (PDT) is reviewing these documents and have identified some additional analysis regarding operation of the intersection and design of the interchange that need to be addressed by Fehr and Peers Associates in their report. Mark Thomas and Company is updating their cost information regarding the proposed facilities. The PDT is also identifying the appropriate agency to carry this project through the California Environmental Quality Act process.

2. CAPITOL CORRIDOR EXTENSION TO RENO FEASIBILITY STUDY

On October 29th the project stakeholders met to discuss the status of the planning efforts and to identify the next steps toward completion of the project. The consultant team presented the following facts, which support completing the current planning study:

1. Strong potential exists for providing environmentally responsible interregional transit connections to recreational employment destinations.
2. High population growth in the service area represents potential expanding ridership.
3. Preliminary timing and schedules support ridership projections and service extension.
4. The right-of-way provides opportunities for increased capacity.

Based on the information presented, the stakeholders want to move forward with the completion of two documents. The first document is a concept plan, which includes technical studies, full concept project description, and implementation strategies. The second document is a brochure with key concept features, a summary of the planning process, and implementation steps. The brochure will be used to build momentum for the new rail service concept and to share the concept with legislators and other potential partners and funding sources. It is expected that the conceptual plan and brochure will be complete by February 2005.

3. GRASS VALLEY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STATUS

On October 26th the Grass Valley City Council reviewed the attached information packet on the Grass Valley Corridor Improvement Project (GVCIP) and took the following actions:

1. Approved the GVCIP and directed staff to take the necessary steps to obtain Caltrans approval.
2. Requested the NCTC to include this project in the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program, and to conduct the necessary environmental review, prepare construction plans and specifications, and implement the funding plan to complete the improvements within the proposed timeframe.

Bickett Engineering has completed the project feasibility study and the next step will be to prepare a formal Project Study Report and Project Report for Caltrans approval. I will be bringing a proposal from Bickett Engineering to the Commission at the January 2005 meeting to accomplish those two Caltrans reports, as well as complete the other actions requested by the Grass Valley City Council. I am continuing to communicate with Grass Valley's Finance Director, Carol Fish, regarding project financing and will be meeting with her and Gene Haroldsen, shortly after December 6th, when he returns to the office from vacation. Once we have resolved the financing issues, a draft update of the RTMF Capital Improvement Program will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and interested members of the public, and then will be brought to the NCTC for approval.

4. TRANSIT/PARATRANSIT GOVERNANCE STUDY

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met on November 12th to discuss the findings from research conducted on governance models and results from the preliminary peer reviews. In early December the *Summary of Governance Models* papers (see attachment) will be made available through the Gold Country Stage and Gold Country Telecare, to keep interested transit and paratransit riders informed and involved in the decision making process. The PAC also met on November 30th and reviewed a summary of the information learned from the peer review and discussed the advantages and disadvantages associated with the private contracting options. The PAC is tentatively scheduled to meet again on December 13th to discuss the completed peer review, recommended governance structure, and a transitioning plan. The draft report will be presented to the Transit Services Commission in January for their review and comment.

5. AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY UPDATE

NCTC staff hosted the first interagency consultation meeting on November 16th to review the draft *Consultation Procedures for Transportation Conformity Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) prepared by NCTC staff with assistance from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD). This MOA identifies the interagency consultation partners and outlines the consultation procedures and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Representatives from the following agencies participated in the November 16th interagency consultation meeting: Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, California Department of Transportation, California Air Resources Board, NCTC, and NSAQMD. NCTC staff is in the process of revising the draft MOA and has tentatively scheduled a meeting in mid-December to review the final draft document.

6. NCTC OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

In keeping with our practice of maximizing the use of floating holidays and vacation time during the Christmas season, the Nevada County Transportation Commission office will be closed on December 24, 2004 and will reopen January 3, 2005.

NOTE: Attachments to this report are available in the NCTC office.